

Woodstock Economic Development Commission

9/28/2016 Meeting

7:00pm – 8:30pm

Town Hall, Woodstock, Vermont

MINUES

1. Call to Order. Charlie Kimbell called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.
In attendance: Tom Weschler, Keith Anderson, Joe DiNatale, Barry Milstone, Gail Childs, Nick Ferro, Charlie Kimbell. Absent: Matt Stover.
- I. Single issue : What “Big Bets” should the Town of Woodstock, and specifically the EDC, consider to achieve the stated objectives of the EDC? The commissioners presented their own ideas, with the other commissioners asking for clarification where necessary.
 - Woodstock Market Day. Establish a consolidated Woodstock Farmer’s Market in the center of the Village (on the Green or Elm Street) on a weekend day to gain diversity in the offerings and attract more visitors and local/regional shoppers.
 - Have the EDC act as a lease agent for commercial property owners, to recruit, vet and advise potential tenants, earning a fee from the commercial property owners which would be used to subsidize the rents being charged. Have the EDC guarantee a one year lease to eliminate the risk of the property owner.
 - Build a network of multimodal (bike, walk, run) paths from the Village to destinations outside of the Village – Taftsville, So. Woodstock, the High School, Suicide Six, etc.. – to establish Woodstock as an accessible place for families and recreation enthusiasts to visit and recreate.
 - a. Create a Woodstock Loop that runs along the Ottauquechee River from the Village towards Taftsville along the south side of the river, crossing over and then returning along River Road and into the Village again.
 - Attract retailers into Woodstock who have the ability to pull visitors from long distances because of their brand strength and quality reputation.
 - Establish dialogue with commercial property owners and potential tenants to recruit desired businesses.
 - Woodstock for a Year. In a major social media effort, recruit a young family to move to Woodstock and write about their experiences. The EDC could cover their housing costs for one year in return.
 - Establish Woodstock as the artisanal product capital of the United States, focusing on specialty products that are, and could be, made locally (furniture, pottery, food products, etc...)
 - Provide financial incentives and subsidies for businesses to locate in Woodstock.
 - Create educational “maker’s” space that could be a center for artisanal product manufacturers to learn and hone their crafts, or for visitors to participate in learning how to make certain products there (ala Naked Table).
 - Develop and communicate an overall strategy to the community and those outside of the community to make it clear the direction of the town of Woodstock.

- Pay families to move to Woodstock, as the current funding formula for education is done on a per-pupil expenditure and not by an overall cost, resulting in a net increase in income for the school system and help to grow the population.
- Establish a business incubator space that provides low rent, access to professional services, necessary infrastructure, focused on environmental sciences and conservation.
- Do a major facelift to the High School/Middle School to attract potential students and families.
- Utilize the east end of town.
- Establish a river recreation/hydro park in the east end.
- Establish a dog park.
- Work with the planning commission to establish a tiny house community that would allow for high density zoning to increase the amount of affordable housing options in town, with the idea that the units would be perpetually affordable.
- Establish a summer software coding bootcamp, utilizing the school buildings and other facilities that are not fully utilized in the summer months.
- Establish Woodstock as the endurance sports capital of the East.

The commission agreed to consider the ideas presented and distill them into a few actionable items to consider.

Adjournment: 8:40pm .